

**It is vital that the Council of Environmental Quality**, of which I was a member in the 1970's, be continued. There are too many instances where development has needed to be reviewed by non-political eyes so that the quality of the environment and Economic Development of this State does not fall prey to inappropriate projects. The elected officials of the Legislature need a source where they can turn to review projects in their area that can help them understand the issues. The private citizen needs a place to turn. It needs the CEQ to help improve issues that have gone awry. An in-house committee cannot do this. **It is vital that the Council of Environmental Quality be funded.**

Thank you for allowing us to make comment in these hearings,

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